

V. CONCLUSION

Although inspection station programs are administered by diverse types of sponsoring agencies, the programs demonstrated similarities in operation, administration, funding, and other areas. Careful consideration and planning for a myriad of issues are critical for a manageable and successful child safety seat inspection station program.

Observations of the study sites and recommendations by site staff resulted in core recommendations for those considering initiating such a program. These recommendations include: determining the need for the service; evaluating financial, personnel, equipment, and other resources available to the program from both the sponsoring agency and from the community; securing the firm commitment of agency administrators; identifying short term and long term funding options; allowing adequate training and start-up time; and seeking funding support from community groups.

The challenges identified by the study sites include: identifying and training certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians; locating appropriate sites for inspections; developing operating schedules; addressing potential liability issues; securing on-going funding sources; conducting promotional outreach; and developing an evaluation/review system for station services.

While child safety seat inspection stations can conduct inspections of child safety seats without offering safety seat replacements; faced with families who are in extreme need, many stations distribute safety seats as a part of their service. Station staff and administrators voiced concern as to the viability of their program should funding for replacement seats be terminated. Concern over potential liability and loss of administrative support are also issues that threaten long term viability of inspection station programs.